

REMARKS

In response to the action, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 4 and cancelled claims 2 and 3. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants amended claim 1 to provide proper antecedent basis for the modified cellulose being carboxy methyl cellulose. In addition, claim 4 now depends upon claim 1 in view of the canceling of intermediate claims 2 and 3. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments enter no new matter.

Applicants' attorney thanks the Examiner for today's telephone interview. During the interview, Applicants' attorney verified the need to correct the antecedent basis issue and cancel claims 2 and 3. In addition, the Examiner recommended an RCE because the case will require a new search.

The action rejects claims 1 to 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failure to particularly point out and claim the invention. In particular, the rejection was for not providing clear antecedent basis for carboxy methyl cellulose. The amended claims now state that the modified cellulose is carboxy methyl cellulose for clarity. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are sufficiently clear, as amended.

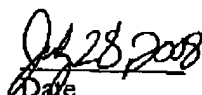
The action rejects claims 1 to 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Goldberg et al. (US Pat. Pub. No. 2005/0136671) or Thomas et al. (US Pat. Pub. No. 2005/0104048). In response to the rejection, Applicants have clarified the carboxy methyl cellulose limitations. Thus, since the Goldberg et al. and Thomas et al. references fail to disclose the degree of substitution or molecular weight, there is no anticipation. In addition, Goldberg et

al. and Thomas et al. each have the common assignee of Rodel Holdings, Inc. The present application has an assignee of Rohm and Haas Electronic Materials CMP Holdings, Inc., formerly known as Rodel Holdings, Inc.—see earlier-presented change of name document. Thus, because the references were commonly owned at the time of the invention, Applicant has overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and the rejection becomes moot under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

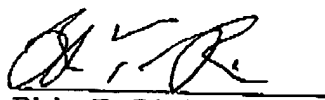
The action rejects claims 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Goldberg et al. (US Pat. Pub. No. 2005/0136671) or Thomas et al. (US Pat. Pub. No. 2005/0104048). Goldberg et al. and Thomas et al. each have the common assignee of Rodel Holdings, Inc. The present application has an assignee of Rohm and Haas Electronic Materials CMP Holdings, Inc., formerly known as Rodel Holdings, Inc.—see earlier-presented change of name document. Thus, since each application had a common assignee at the time of the invention, the rejection becomes moot under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in proper form for allowance. If a telephone call would expedite prosecution, please call Applicants' attorney at (302) 283-2136.

Respectfully submitted,


Date

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